My dear Brother, Epping Forest May 13. 1781

You may observe by the place from whence I write that Chantilly is no longer our place of residence - Since you left us we have been taught to expect, and we have been vigorously preparing to receive properly on Potomac the hostile visit that has lately done so much damage upon James river. It seems more than probable that the enemy intended here after they had burnt most of the great Warehouses on James river, because they had descended as low as James Town, when meeting with dispatch vessels from below they returned with great quickness up to Hoods, landed, and proceeded southward - the Marquis crossed James river and pursuing them, they have turned about and have again approached James river, that of Appamattox being between them & the Marquis - who cannot cross the latter river without putting it in the power of the enemy to push at James river & destroy Richmond before he could recross Appamattox and arrive to prevent them - This is the cruel mischief that attends our want of marine force - with a tenth of our land power they can baffle and injure us most essentially having the command of the water - At this moment, if their water force in James river was put into our hands, their Army would be so likewise in a few days - We understand that Cornwallis is at Hallifax in N. Carolina looking this way - that Gen. Green has given a capital defeat to Lord Roddon near Cambden, and that our affairs in the South wear a good aspect - Can we not get a fleet to come here, it will produce most salutary consequences.

Have Congress seen the very artful and dangerous proclamation lately published by Arbuthnot & Clinton? It is published at N. York the 29th of december and is now most diligently circulating in these Southern States, whilst we have no Press & no means of counteracting its malignity — Surely Congress will publish such an answer as it easily admits of and cause a sufficiency of Hand bills to be printed for dispersion, especially in these southern parts where a want of Presses renders us in a great measure a prey to such artifices as this proclamation — I think that no time is to be lost in doing this — I inclose you now an accurate list of my Tickets in the 4th class of the Contl. Lottery — I find that there is one Ticket more than I had in the third Class and of a number different from any that I had in that 3d. Class — It was among the number of those Tickets that my most worthy friend Dr. Shippen the elder sent me when you came ~~here~~ to Virginia — the number is 13,687 and it may be one of his own Tickets sent ~~here~~ me by mistake — Speak to him on the subject & let him know that the Ticket is here wi me — Be so kind as inform me of the fate of my Tickets, and get for me the pamphlet commonly published by the Managers after every Lottery shewing the fate of al Tickets — Pray bestir yourself, get us a french fleet here, and a good answer to this insidious proclamation — God bless you and make you as happy as I wish you to be — Our love to fourth Street & my respects to my old Whig friends in Congress — Unalterably yours

Richard Henry Lee

I hope Mr. Izard is well recovered from his illness — it will make me

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me happy to know it.

a Hint to those entrusted with
supreme power.

Julius Cæsar being desirous of engaging the chief Cities of Gaul in Alliance with the Roman People to assist him in his enterprise upon Britain, for that purpose a Convention being to be held, he sent to the Supreme Council of the principal Nation to propose to them that certain persons whom he named & who he knew would be directed by him should be appointed their Ambassadors at the Convention. To this request the Supreme Council returned the following Answer.

Libenter se facturos quod vellet Cæsar. Eum autem obsecrabant ut prius exemplum afferret ubi unus inter Socios pro altero Legatos elegerat. Quippe quod prima facie concedendum indignum id suprema potestate et servitus speciem videretur. Responsuros se esse suis, et cavendum esset ne res inusitata et indigna suspectos se apud suos redderet et in vitæ discrimen duceret.

They would willingly do what Cæsar wish'd. But they besought him to furnish them first with an example in which one Ally had named the Ambassadors of another. Since this appeard unworthy of an independent Power to allow & lookt like Slavery. That they were answerable to their Constituents for their conduct, & must take care least a proceeding unexampled & disgraceful shou'd render them suspected & endanger their lives.

Experiment	50	Martelli
	Frigates	
Indiscreet		
Sensible		
Dedaigneuse		
Eagle	18	Sloop of War

May 1.

≡ at Fort Royal

List of the french fleet at Martinique the 1st May 1781.

Mem. Dr. Genl. Knox told me that on trying the Gun Barrels sent from France for the publick, 90 in an 100 burst. These were the Magazine for a/c Mr. Deane paid 200,000 livres & were sent over by Mr. Williams after a great expence in fitting them up.

Arthur Lee esquire

at

Philadelphia

		White
Le Zele	74	Preville
Le Scepion	74	Claville
Northumb.	74	Bruguier
		De Grasse
Ville de Paris	100	St. Cesaire
Sceptre	74	Vaudreuil
St. Hector	74	D' Alains
Magnanime	74	Le Begue
	Blue & White	
Citoyen	74	D'Ethy
Glorieux	74	D'Escars
Languedoc	80	Barn. D'Aros
Soveraine	74	De Glandevez
Diademe	74	De Montecler
Auguste	80	De Bougainville
	Blue	
Marseilles	74	De Castellane
Vaillant	64	De Marigny
Bourgogne	74	De Charitte
César	74	D'Espinouse
Hercule	74	De Turpin
Pluton	80	D'albert
St Esprit	80	De Chabert
Victoire	74	St. Hippolete
Solitaire	64	De Cicé Champion
Reflechi	64	De Boâdes
Caton	64	De Frammond
	Frigates	
Medée	36 tw.	Bouquet
Diligent	32 ni.	Mortimert
Aigrette	32 ni.	Traversé
	Cutters	
Alerte		Chaborne
Pandour		De Grasse
	Flutes	
Minotaur	74	
Union	64	
Fier	64	
E Indiam.	64 each	

MS. Ch.E.9.16

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